



July 2026

LINK-up

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict

Message from the Chair

A little while ago I had a discussion with someone who had not long since taken on running an organisation a bit like Churches Together in that it was an umbrella structure incorporating several completely separate groups. They felt that it had somewhat lost its sense of what it was for, and that restoring that sense of purpose, or maybe discovering a new one if the old way of doing things turned out not to be relevant anymore, was a key part of what they wanted to do. Periodic reflection and perhaps revision of what you are there for is an important task for organisations that have existed for some time: even businesses may find themselves moving from making their original widgets to something completely different when commercial pressures suggest a change.

For voluntary organisations and perhaps especially for bodies like Churches Together that bring together separate groups, that question may need asking quite often. We experience and work out our Christian lives primarily in the specific Church communities we belong to, surrounded by people we know, and all working alongside each other in a common endeavour. When conditions are challenging, our own Churches occupy so much of our time and energy that there seems little left for anything else, and it's hard to place much value on ecumenical effort. Actual, institutional union between Churches – such as we have had locally in the United Church bringing Methodists together with the United Reformed Church – happens very rarely indeed and it's unrealistic to have that as any kind of immediate goal even if it may remain a guiding ideal.

In these circumstances we shouldn't underestimate the value of simply meeting, talking, and praying together. We do need to make sure our gatherings don't end up focused on cake and chat which they will tend to if left to their own devices, but cake and chat framed by prayer opens them up to the possibility that the Lord will do something with us that we cannot yet guess. As the early Church did, devoting ourselves to "the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers" is not a bad mission statement to have.

Rev James Rattue, Chair of Churches Together in Godalming and District
rector@farncombe.org.uk

Churches Together news and events

Open Meeting

The next Churches Together Open Meeting is on Wednesday 22 July, 7.30pm, at St John's Farncombe.

Forthcoming Prayer Breakfasts

These take place at 8.30am on Saturday mornings.

25 July – Milford Baptist Church

26 September – Godalming Baptist Church

24 October – St John's Church Farncombe

28 November – Godalming United Church

News of the Churches and organisations

Godalming Minster

Godalming Minster enjoyed a great service on the Hambledon village cricket ground last Sunday. The service marked the end of the Hambledon Village Festival, which takes place every two years and made use of the marquee that had been up for the jazz and the ball on the Friday and Saturday nights. All congregations joined the villagers for a relaxed community service.

Prayer

We are encouraging each other in prayer and held a session to explore different models of personal prayer at the end of June. The second session on leading prayer at church is on 2 July at Brighton Road from 7.30pm to 9.30pm, and we are looking forward to Bishop Paul's gathering on 16 July at 7.00pm at Church Street, to which all the churches in the Godalming Deanery are invited. Bishop Paul's invitation can be found in full in the calendar at <https://godalmingminster.churchsuite.com/events/hpavk5h2>

Foodbank

We are still waiting to understand the changes to government funding which supports the Foodbank at Franklyn Road. In the meantime, the Foodbank is welcoming support from the congregation for donations of food and household items, as well as financial donations. We have new donation boxes at the back of each church, and standing orders or one-off donations can be made to the specific bank account. Please share this appeal with your congregations and find the shopping list of most needed items, and bank details at <https://godalmingminster.org/explore/help-support/foodbank>.

We're hiring

Godalming Minster is currently advertising for an [Administration Coordinator for Mission and Occasions](#). The closing date is 12.00pm on Wednesday 15 July 2026.

Please get in touch with the Minster Office if you'd like an informal chat about this opportunity. T: 01483 421267 e: office@godalmingminster.org

Holiday Club

Bookings are now open for our [Kingdom Quest Holiday Club](#) at Godalming Minster from 26 to 28 August. It runs from 9.00am to 3.00pm at Brighton Road for ages 5 to 11. The cost is just £50 for three days, or £20 per day. Invitations are spaces are limited, but we'd love to share the invitation with everyone in Churches Together. Find out more at <https://godalmingminster.churchsuite.com/events/klivnqhy>

godalmingminster.org

St John's Parish Church, Farncombe

Our next major event at St John's will be the Village Show on Saturday 22 August, for which preparations are well in hand.

July's events which may be of interest to friends in other congregations across the town are the next Board Games afternoon at 4.00pm on Sunday 12 July, the contemplative Sanctus service at 6.00pm on the 19 July, and Forest Church at 4.00pm on the 26 July. Look on the website for details of Forest Church, which have yet to be finalised.

The editor of our longstanding and popular parish newspaper *The Villager* is stepping down at the end of this year, and we are very keen to maintain it as so many local people appreciate it. If you know of anyone with suitable desktop publishing skills who might be able to help, do get in touch with the parish office – office@farncombe.org.uk.

www.farncombe.org.uk

Godalming Baptist Church

Coffee Stop, Saturday 4 July, 10.00am to 12.00pm

Do join us for coffee, tea and delicious homemade cakes. No charge but donations to our chosen monthly charity - July being The National Autistic Society.

Tea garden party in support of Ukraine Mission, 5 July, 3.00pm to 5.00pm

A gathering inspired by the charm of the traditional English garden party — but created with a deeper purpose: to help deliver humanitarian aid, practical support, and kindness to Ukrainians who continue to face unimaginable hardship. Vale End Garden, Albury, Guildford. Places are limited and advance booking is essential <https://forms.gle/r4ATUzhhmPyb7jjP8>. All proceeds will support volunteers delivering humanitarian aid to Ukraine.

Outing to the Isle of Wight, 16 July

A Friendship Lunch and community day coach outing to visit the lovely Isle of Wight, with a ferry cruise across the Solent, and tour of the Island, stopping at Godshill and Shanklin sea front. We will assemble at the church by 8.00am for a prompt 8.15am departure. The outing will be subsidised by a generous donation from the Denningberg Centre, so we will be charging a reduced cost of £25.00 per person. This will include the coach and ferry, and gratuity to the driver. You will need to pay for your own food and any other shopping and entertainment. Contact Church Reception for a booking form - 01483 414544.

www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk

Godalming United Church

Online services: <https://guc.online.church>.

Service recordings: www.guc.org.uk, <https://bit.ly/GUCYouTube>.

Sad news

Readers will be saddened to hear of the death in June of our former Minister Rev'd Paul Hulme (GUC 2012-2019). Ours was his last stationing in a long career spanning 51 years and nine ministerial appointments, the most prestigious being as Superintendent of Wesley's Chapel in the heart of London – the centre of world Methodism – from 1988 to 1996. He was an inspired preacher and leader, supportive colleague and caring pastor – truly a man who walked with God; his was a life well-lived.

Annual Collection for the Whitechapel Mission for the Homeless

The Whitechapel Mission has helped the homeless in London since 1876. Today, it is recognised as one of London's most effective homeless charities. The cost-of-living crisis sadly means that the need continues to grow. Entirely dependent on public support, the Whitechapel Mission always needs donations. Items highlighted in **bold** below are needed the most urgently.

BREAKFAST FOODS: Cornflakes, Weetabix, Nutella, chopped tomatoes, brown sauce, sugar, honey, plum tomatoes, chopped tomatoes, biscuits, baked beans, instant hot chocolate, coffee, squash, salt, black ground pepper, ketchup, honey, chocolate spread, porridge, tinned fruit, bottled water, peanut Butter

MEN'S CLOTHING: Underpants, boxers, jeans 28-36", trousers 28-34", men's trainers, men's shoes, small rucksacks, winter jackets, winter coats, baseball caps, t-shirts, woollen scarves, woollen gloves, woollen hats, jumpers, bath towels, hand towels

TOILETRIES: Toothbrushes, roll-on deodorant, razors, shaving foam, shower gel, spray deodorant, razors, body lotion, body wash, shampoo, moisturiser, hand cream

The trailer will be in the church car park at the following dates and times:

Friday 3 July	12.00pm to 1.30pm
Saturday 4 July	10.30am to 12.00pm
Saturday 4 July	2.00pm to 3.00pm
Sunday 5 July	11.30am to 12.30pm
Monday 6 July	7.00pm to 8.00pm

Church anniversary and annual summer BBQ, Sunday 5 July, 10.30am

Morning service followed by BBQ, strawberries & cream, and entertainments. Contact frymaile@gmail.com for more info or see church magazine on church website. £10 adult, £5 child.

For other events, please visit www.guc.org.uk for a constantly updated rolling calendar

Roman Catholic Parish of St Edmund, King & Martyr, Godalming with St Joseph's Milford

Pope Leo's prayer intention for July

Pope Leo's prayer intention for July is for respect for human life. Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognising it as a gift from God.

Parish Summer Party, Friday 3 July at Wilfred Noyce Centre from 6.30pm

We hope a big crowd will gather for this party as it's been a while since we had a get-together and there is so much to give thanks for and to celebrate. It's a 'bring and share' – something sweet or savoury – and drinks are provided. There will be activities for children, and board games in the adjoining Wyatt room, so if you have a game you'd like to play, please bring it with you!

Week of guided prayer at the Franciscan Centre, Ladywell from 5 to 10 July

This has become an annual offering, and it's a chance to make a retreat in daily life. The commitment is to a half hour of prayer each day, and to meet with a spiritual guide one-to-one each day of the week. The beautiful and peaceful gardens and Chapel at Ladywell are available to retreatants for their enjoyment and quiet times.

Confirmation at St Joseph's, Guildford on Sunday 12 July

We pray for our young people who are receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, that the Holy Spirit will guide and lead them and strengthen their faith, that they may become true disciples of Christ.

Weekend Masses

Weekend Masses are celebrated at St Edmund's Godalming (6.00pm Vigil Mass) on Saturday evenings; and on Sundays at St John's Farncombe at 8.45am, with children's liturgy (and with coffee after Mass on 5 & 19 July); and at St Joseph's Milford at 10.30am.

Weekday Masses

The dates, times and venues of these vary so please check the calendar on the homepage of our website: www.stedsgod.com

St Edmund's church remains open every day usually between 10.00am and 5.00pm (19 Croft Road, Godalming GU7 1DB).

Parish gatherings

We offer a warm welcome to newcomers at our regular parish gatherings:

- *Bumps, Babes & Toddlers* on Monday mornings at St John's Farncombe from 10.30am to 12.00pm, term time only. The group welcomes parents, carers and grandparents and babies, toddlers and pre-school children. For more info: eileen.hudson@gmail.com

- *SVP Afternoon Tea* The July tea is on Wednesday 15 July at 2.00pm at Busbridge Village Hall. Our parish SVP group meets in person monthly and welcomes new volunteers. For more information phone SVP on 07379 108009.
- *Prayer Group* on Monday evenings in Elstead (phone Richard for details on 01252 702230), 5.00pm in winter and 7.30pm in summer.
- *Live Simply group* Our parish eco-group meets monthly online; to join the next meeting email Sarah in the parish office: godalming@abdiocese.org.uk
- *Bereavement group* This group offers support and meets monthly, usually on Fridays at 10.30am. More information: bereavementatsteds@gmail.com
- *EdsKnitters* This group knits for charities. If you can knit hats, gloves, scarves or blankets for adults and/or baby clothes please get in touch via the parish office: godalming@abdiocese.org.uk

www.stedsgod.com

Godalming Quakers

Sunday Meetings for Worship

The regular weekly worship session continues to be held on Sunday mornings, starting at 10.30am at the Quaker Meeting House in Mill Lane, and all are welcome.

www.quaker.org.uk/meetings/godalming

Feba

There will be an online prayer meeting for Feba on Wednesday 1 July from 7.00pm to 8.00pm. This UK-based media organisation has partners in many of the world's trouble spots, and you will hear directly from a partner in one of these areas. Find out more at

www.feba.org.uk/prayer

There will be no meeting in August.

Trinity Trust Team

Fundraising appeal 2026

A big thank you to so many stakeholder churches who have welcomed Andy to give an update on our youth ministries and the financial challenges the charity faces. Do look out for the posters and postcards being displayed and distributed locally and consider how you might help us to continue to share the love of Christ with young people in our local schools and communities. If you would like to donate, please visit

<https://trinitytrustteam.churchsuite.com/donate>

Summer Activities 2026!

Here we go again... from 20 to 24 July we will again be taking a full minibus of local youth to outward bounds centres, karting tracks, a theme park and water parks as part of our National Lottery funded activities programme – a wonderful way to round off the academic year.

Please pray for:

- The funds to enable us to continue to operate into and beyond 2027
- Continued gospel opportunities in the town's schools and communities
- A desire for local children and young people to come to know Jesus

We continue to thank all those who play a part in and support the youth ministry of the Trinity Trust Team. Our thanks and blessings to you all as ever...

Andy and the team

Items for next month's Link-up

Please send items for the August 2026 edition of *Link-up* to Matt Farrow:
farrow.matt@gmail.com by **Friday 24 July**, for publication on Friday 31 July.